

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1989BOGOTAI2458

RELEASED IN FULL


 Page: 1

Channel: n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 12458 182045Z

ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	EB-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	STR-18	SIL-01	INRE-00	OPM-01
	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/066 W			

-----102214 182056Z /63

P 182044Z AUG 89
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7954
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 DIA WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 12458

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PINS, PTER, EPET, PGOV, CO
 SUBJECT: ELN ANNOUNCES UNILATERAL "CEASEFIRE," BUT
 SAYS MAY CONTINUE BOMBING OIL PIPELINE

1. (U) IN A CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT THE CASTROITE ELN GUERRILLA GROUP HAS PROMISED TO BEGIN A UNILATERAL "CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES" ON AUGUST 25. IN 1989 THE ELN HAS BEEN THE MOST VIOLENTLY ACTIVE OF THE FOUR MAJOR GUERRILLA GROUPS. THE AUGUST 17 COMMUNIQUE SPECIFICALLY PROMISED THAT THE ELN INTENDS TO DISCONTINUE SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOC-RUN COLOMBIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY (ECOPETROL). NEVERTHELESS, THE GUERRILLA GROUP "RESERVED THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE FIGHTING THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 12458 182045Z

MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES." THIS ABSURD STIPULATION MAY MEAN THAT THE GROUP COULD CONTINUE BOMBING THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE, ITS FAVORITE TERRORIST

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1989BOGOTA12458

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

ACTIVITY IN 1988-1989.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE ELN'S CHOICE OF TIMING FOR ISSUING ITS CURIOUS CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT IS LUDICROUS. FAR FROM DISPLAYING A WILLINGNESS TO CEASE HOSTILITIES, THE GUERRILLA GROUP ON AUGUST 14-15 LAUNCHED A SERIES OF EXTREMELY VICIOUS RAIDS IN A CLUSTER OF NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS (SEE BOGOTA 12139 AND 12167). ALSO, BY BURNING DOZENS OF BUSES AND TRUCKS IN MAJOR NORTHERN ROADS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, ELN ACTIVITIES HAVE REDUCED BOTH COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE TRAFFIC IN THAT AREA TO ALMOST 50 PERCENT. IN 1989 THE ELN HAS BEEN THE ONLY GUERRILLA GROUP OBDURATELY TO REJECT THE BARCO ADMINISTRATION'S PEACE PLAN (SEE BOGOTA 12172). IN THE ABSENCE OF REAL EVIDENCE OF THE ELN'S DESIRE FOR PEACE, THE GROUP'S ANNOUNCEMENT SEEMS TO US A CLUMSY PLOY TO GET THE ARMED FORCES' "OPERATION JUPITER" OFF ITS BACK (SEE BOGOTA 12308).

MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED